

# WWW.CI.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US BRIEFING



## CELEBRATING-OUR-SESQUICENTENNIAL

OCTOBER 2008

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### 25TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK PARTIES SET NEW RECORD



**T**HE 25TH ANNUAL National Night Out was the most successful National Night Out ever for the Bloomington Police Department (BPD). A record-setting 365 block parties registered with the City. Nearly 250 parties were visited by the BPD, Bloomington Fire Department, and Allina Hospitals and Clinics.

In addition, the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association raised \$7,000 for the BPD to help offset expenses from the event.

National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anticrime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

For more information, call Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

### 86TH STREET TRAIL COMPLETE FINAL SEGMENT OF PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE TRAIL IS OPEN

**T**HE NEW, IMPROVED pedestrian and bike trail along East Bush Lake Road from 106th to 84th Streets provides greater access for pedestrians and cyclists in the area. Construction of the final segment, from Forest Glen Trail leading to the Chalet intersection, was recently completed. The walkway/bikeway provides non-motorized access between the various residential and office developments in the area to Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Bush Lake Beach, Richardson Nature Preserve, Forest Glen Trail and Normandale Lake.

## BLOOMINGTON-YESTERDAY



### THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET HOW AN OLD ELM BROUGHT A COMMUNITY TOGETHER

**J**OHNSON AVENUE, a quiet, narrow street lined with ramblers, once boasted one very unique tree. The elm itself was not unique – although it was a sight with its 20-foot girth. The location made this elm special: The tree stood right smack-dab in the middle of the then unpaved road.

According to Larry Granger, who has lived on Johnson Avenue since 1961, the elm was originally planted as a marker between two farms. Yet it grew into much more. For all the years it stood in front of Granger's house, it served as a landmark, a meeting place, a playground for neighborhood kids, a spot to ring in the New Year, and in the 1960s, a place for teenagers to park their bikes and lounge. The elm was so revered that when it came time for the City to install a sewer line under the street, residents asked that the project not disturb the tree. Thus, the sewer line was installed deep under the tree's roots and the sturdy elm stayed put until 1979 when it succumbed to Dutch elm disease.

Although the giant elm is long gone, every New Year's Eve, Granger and his neighbors go out to the spot where it used to stand and say a toast to the good old days.

## PENN AMERICAN DISTRICT PLAN CREATING A DISTINCTIVE, SUSTAINABLE URBAN CENTER

**I**F YOU'VE PASSED the intersection of American Boulevard and Penn Avenue, you have probably noticed the first development activities connected with the Penn American District Plan. The City Council and the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority envision a future where neighborhoods in this area thrive side-by-side with high-volume streets and a regional mixed-use center.

The Penn American District Plan will create a blueprint for a livable retail, office and residential urban neighborhood adjacent to the I-494 and I-35W interchange. The development will be transit-oriented, with improved transit service along American Boulevard and new bus rapid transit service on I-35W. In addition, the district's crossroads location makes it a candidate for higher density development.

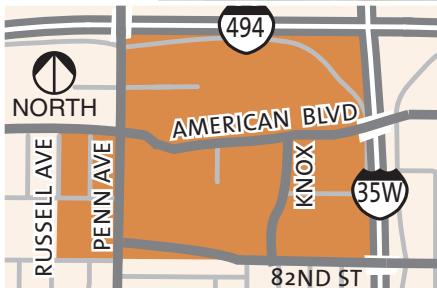
Transportation considerations include Minnesota Department of Transportation's plans to rebuild the I-494/Lyndale and I-494/I-35W interchanges. Traffic patterns will be transformed after the interchanges are constructed, and traffic on 82nd Street and Penn and Lyndale Avenues north of 82nd Street will increase. The American Boulevard Bridge over I-35W has created an alternate route for local trips and a transit opportunity. Metro Transit is studying the possibility of a bus rapid transit station and a park-and-ride in the area.

#### Community benefits

The Penn American District Plan will provide the framework for phased redevelopment by defining a vision for:



The Penn American District is adjacent to I-494 and I-35W. This rendition looks southeast with Bloomington in the background.



- Attractive public spaces and unified streetscape.
- A mixture of active uses including retail, office, hotel and multifamily residential.
- Improved transit service and provision for walking and biking.
- Sustainable site planning, building design and construction practices.
- Pedestrian connections with the surrounding neighborhoods.

- High-quality architecture.
- Neighborhood compatibility through careful site design.
- Increased property values in the area by encouraging new services, employment and amenities.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Penn American.

The District Plan will be completed in 2009.



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# SURVIVING THE HOUSING DOWNTURN

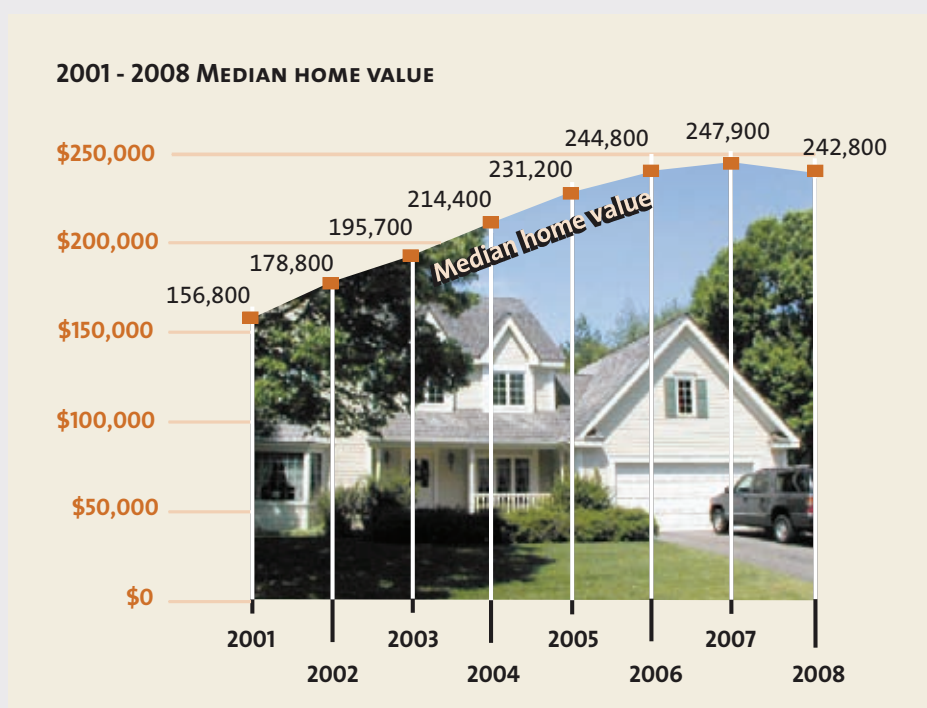
## A BLOOMINGTON HOUSING MARKET PERSPECTIVE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

**A**S A BLOOMINGTON HOMEOWNER, the housing market is of great importance to me. Although I can't predict the future, I've been following the local market closely and I'm confident that Bloomington homes will stand the test of time and homeowners will weather this volatile market.

Stories about the subprime mortgage crisis, a slow economy and a downturn in the housing market have, no doubt, left many homeowners concerned about the status of the homes in their neighborhoods. These stories often reflect the conditions in the most impacted cities in the country. This is one time when it's good that Bloomington is not in the news.

The City of Bloomington is tracking data on mortgage foreclosures and the status of properties that have been foreclosed. I'm happy to report that Bloomington housing has had only a limited increase in foreclosures, and that the foreclosed properties are being sold to new owners and not sitting vacant. It has helped that Bloomington has not experienced a major decrease in values. While some communities around the country have been hard hit, Bloomington residents continue to



reinvest in their homes and the housing market here remains steady. Currently, Bloomington has a low percentage of homes in foreclosure when compared to other communities in Hennepin County. In addition, Hennepin County's home values are stable when compared to other cities that are struggling with steep value declines and foreclosures.

Bloomington's housing market is resilient. With the exception of the past year of this decade, home values have steadily increased and have not experienced a large speculative price run-up. A recent housing market adjustment has led to a 2.1 percent decline in single-family median home assessed value from 2007 - 2008. Current sales data indicates the upcoming 2009 assessment will continue to reflect this general market slowdown. Yet even with this price correction, a look at the 10-year trend shows that Bloomington's median home value has approximately doubled during the last decade.

Another sign of a healthy housing market is residents reinvesting in their homes through upkeep and home improvement projects. In 2007, the City issued 750 permits for residential remodeling projects. Another 1,500 permits were issued for significant maintenance projects such as roofing, siding, driveways and decks. The Building and Inspection Division reviews construction plans for consistency with codes, issues grading and building permits and inspects work at critical points during construction.

If you are thinking about making improvements to your home, but not sure where to start, or what improvements will add the most value, the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority has resources to help you. Visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Home improvements.



In the 1950s, rambler had an assessed market value of \$10,000 - \$12,000. Today, they are worth more than 20 times that value in addition to being movie stars! See details on page 3.

## 2009 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

### COUNCIL APPROVES PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY

**A**t a September meeting, the City Council approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$54,970,228, a 5.73 percent increase from the 2008 budget of \$51,992,043.

For a Bloomington resident with a median-valued home of \$242,800, the cost of City services is estimated to be \$66.84 for 2009, which is an average annual increase of 3.25 percent since 2007. In 2007, the cost of City services was \$62.82. In 2008, the monthly cost for City services was \$61.80. The decrease was due to commercial and industrial properties increasing at a faster rate than single-family residential properties.

The cost for City services would increase \$4.88 per month in 2009 for a monthly payment of \$66.84. The median-valued home averaged a 2 percent decrease in market value in 2008, down \$5,100 from 2007. The approval of a preliminary levy of \$44,577,096 for 2009, a 6 percent increase from 2008, in part anticipates the possible loss of market value credit from the state in 2009.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. This allows the City to adjust for anticipated 2009 economically sensitive resources, including a potential state reduction in

The Truth in Taxation  
Hearing is **Monday, December 1,**  
**at 6 p.m.** in the Council  
Chambers at Civic Plaza.

market value credit during the 2009 Legislative Session. Any reduction is based on the projected financial conditions in the state's November economic forecast. If the final 2009 levy increase is approved at this preliminary level, the average annual increase in the City's levy from 1995 - 2009 will be 3.72 percent.

City staff uses a five-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of our community to recommend a preliminary levy.

## BRIEFING

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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, OCTOBER 2008





# HOLLYWOOD COMES TO TOWN

## FILMMAKERS’ LATEST MOVIE FEATURES BLOOMINGTON RAMBLERS

**F**OR TWO YEARS this column has promoted the livable and lovable characteristics of the Rambler. Now Hollywood has also taken notice. Last month, four ramblers on Fourth Avenue were the “stars” of the upcoming motion picture, “A Serious Man,” by Oscar-winning filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen.

What made these ramblers, and this street in particular, so appealing to the filmmakers?

According to Tyson Bidner, location manager for Big Minyan Films, they were looking for a street to emulate the 1960s-era St. Louis Park neighborhood where the Coen brothers spent their childhood. Most of the trees on Fourth Avenue between East 84th and 86th Street were uprooted by a storm a few



To get an authentic look, homes were made-over with 1960s-style vinyl siding.

years ago. The replacement trees are still very small – as they would have been in the 1960s – making the block a perfect match for the film.

“We were looking to match a 1960s suburban-style neighborhood and this street had great sightlines for the houses,” Bidner said.

Another deciding factor was the well-maintained homes and surrounding landscaping, which had to be traditional.

“The pride of ownership was already there,” Bidner said. “We knew we wouldn’t have to do a lot of work, which is especially important with a lower budget film.”

There was, however, some superficial work to be done to the ramblers’ exteriors in order to fit the film. Homes were made-over with 1960s-style vinyl siding, second garages, not common in the 1960s, were masked using sod over the driveways and landscaping was adjusted.

According to Bidner, the crew found inspiration in *Suburban World: The Norling Photos*, a compilation of photos of Bloomington in its early development, taken by photographer Irv Norling.



Interior scenes were shot in four different ramblers on Fourth Avenue, including the bedroom of Peggy Knutson’s 1954 Rambler.

Knutson was excited to have her home in the movie, but said she was more impressed with the crew who worked on her street and home prior to filming.

“It’s so interesting to see behind-the-scenes and watch these

people work so hard, from dawn to dusk,” said Knutson. “The crew really deserves all the credit. I’ll never see a movie the same way again.”

Other than the addition of an extra bedroom to the back of the house, Knutson’s Rambler is much like it was in 1954, which was part of the appeal to filmmakers.

“We haven’t changed much because we really don’t need to,” Knutson said. “Ramblers are the easiest homes to maintain. They should build more of them.”

Other locations that will appear in the film are the Great Bear Center at 90th Street and Lyndale Avenue and Normandale Community College.

# 28TH AVENUE LRT STATION UPDATE

## NEW PARKING STRUCTURE ACCOMMODATES MORE RIDERS



**A** 1,450-SPACE, FIVE-LEVEL parking structure south of the 28th Avenue LRT Station opened in July. The parking ramp replaces a 362-space surface parking lot on the south side of the station that was filled to capacity on weekdays. A grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in August. Met Council Chair Peter Bell, Met Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and Mayor Gene Winstead spoke at the event.

Mayor Winstead said he looks forward to completing the light rail transit in Bloomington.

“The Hiawatha Line has, without a doubt, been a powerful catalyst for both commercial and residential development,” Mayor Winstead said.

“We look forward to the addition of the American Boulevard light rail station, being planned just south I-494 at the intersection of American Boulevard and 34th Avenue. Constructing that station will complete the Hiawatha LRT infrastructure as originally planned in our Airport South District.”

For more information, call 952-563-8927.

# DON’T GET LEFT IN THE DARK

## REPORT STREET LIGHT OUTAGES



**H**AVE YOU NOTICED a street light in your neighborhood that is broken or not working properly? If you’d like to report a street light outage, or broken or dim light, you can do so.

Have the location of the light and specific problem you’d like to report ready before you call or submit a work request.

Reports can be submitted one of the following ways:

- Contact Xcel Energy at 800-960-6235 or visit [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com).
- Submit a work request to *Ask the City* by visiting the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us). Click on the *Ask the City* link, request action and submit a ticket to Street Light Malfunction.
- Call Bloomington Traffic Engineering at 952-563-4913.

# RETIRING IN COMFORT

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### NEW SENIOR HOUSING PLANS ARE UNDERWAY

**A**S THE BABY BOOMERS are retiring, the demand for senior housing has been rapidly escalating in the past 5 - 10 years. The number of senior independent living units totals more than 1,800 in Bloomington and plans are underway for more. Two examples include Portland Commons and Crossings at Valley View.

On 87th Street and Portland Avenue, a developer is planning **Portland Commons**, a four-story, 166-unit, senior independent and dependent living building on the north side of the

property, and **Crossings at Valley View**, a 50-unit workforce housing apartment on the south side of the property. Construction of the workforce housing was recently completed. The senior building is scheduled for completion in 2009.



Portland Commons



Crossings at Valley View

A new 24-foot wide street connecting Park Avenue to Oakland Avenue will be constructed to accommodate the new senior housing development. In addition, a total of 129 underground and 223 surface parking spaces will be distributed throughout the property.

For more information, contact Bloomington Planner Londell Pease at 952-563-8926.

Brekken received the Bush Leadership Fellowship in 1970, which he used to attend the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School. Early in his career, he developed the first training programs for the Bloomington Police Department.



## A FINAL FAREWELL

### FORMER BLOOMINGTON POLICE CHIEF REMEMBERED

**F**ORMER BLOOMINGTON POLICE CHIEF James Brekken passed away recently. Brekken dedicated 35 years to the Bloomington Police Department, serving as chief from 1973 - 1977.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Brekken attended the University of Minnesota and St. Thomas College.



## CLEANING WITH A CONSCIENCE

### NON-TOXIC CLEANING RECIPES MAKE A COMEBACK



**R**EDUCING THE AMOUNT of chemicals you use to clean your home will not only benefit the environment, it may save money. You may already have many ingredients you need to clean your home in your

pantry. These basic supplies, used for years by our parents and grandparents to clean and disinfect, include:

- **Baking soda** – Combine with a squirt of liquid soap to clean tubs and tile. Sprinkle over the bottom of your oven and let sit overnight. Wipe clean with a damp sponge the next morning to make your oven shine.
- **Borax** – Mix with hot water and vinegar for a good all-purpose cleaner.
- **Lemon juice** – Simply pour into a glass jar with a teaspoon of pure olive oil and dab with a soft rag to clean furniture and countertops.
- **Liquid dish soap** – Combine with vinegar, water and olive oil to clean wood surfaces.
- **White vinegar** – A straight 5 percent solution of vinegar is effective in eliminating harmful bacteria, mold and germs. Keep a spray bottle in your kitchen and bath.

For more tips and nontoxic cleaning recipes, visit [www.reduce.org](http://www.reduce.org).

### REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS CHOOSE PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS WISELY

Reduce the amount of chemicals from personal care products that you're exposed to by following these three tips:

1. Use fewer products and use them less frequently.
2. Read claims on the label judiciously. Check ingredients.
3. Buy fragrance-free products.

### BE A LABEL READER USE KEYWORDS TO FIND THE LEAST HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS



To determine whether a product contains hazardous chemicals, follow these guidelines from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:

#### Less toxic

- CAUTION (mild to moderate).
- WARNING (moderate hazard).

#### More toxic

- DANGER (extremely flammable, corrosive or toxic).
- POISON (highly toxic).

*Whether it's saving energy or guarding precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference in Bloomington...*

## EARTH ACTION HEROES

### BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAKE SUSTAINABILITY A PRIORITY

**I**T STARTED OUT as just another part of the curriculum; now it's part of their everyday lives. Students, teachers and parents at Bloomington Public Schools are making sustainability a priority. From organic recycling to the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products, the School District is working to protect the environment and conserve resources.

Hennepin County Environmental Services Organics Recycling Specialist John Jaimez has been working with Bloomington Public Schools for two years to implement the program. However, Jaimez said all the credit goes to those who are doing the work on a daily basis.

"Last spring, Olson Elementary and Middle Schools began recycling food scraps, food-soiled paper, hand towels

and other materials that typical recycling companies won't take," Jaimez said.

How does it work? With the help of volunteer student monitors, students place materials in the appropriate bins after lunch. The organic material is then shipped to a commercial composting facility and turned into compost for landscaping and road construction projects.

Olson Middle School sixth-grader Nick said he thinks the program is great. "It helps the environment and helps the janitors," Nick said.

Sixth-grade teacher Karolyn Peterson said the program turned out better than anyone expected.

"Who would have thought that

students could be so interested in trash, but they love doing it," Peterson said.

Out of the all the trash produced by School District kitchens and cafeterias, Jaimez said 80 percent or more can be composted.



# KA-POW

Another way that the School District is doing its part to help the environment is by purchasing green cleaning products. According to Director of Buildings and Grounds for the School District Mike Berg, reducing the amount of harsh chemicals used to clean kitchens and cafeterias has also become a priority. After interviewing numerous vendors, Berg found that purchasing environmentally safe cleaning products was not only smart, it was cost-effective.

"Everyone is on board with this effort, from the custodians to the students and their parents," Berg said. "We want to be as green as possible."

By the end of 2009, all Bloomington public elementary and middle schools will be participating in the organics recycling program and using certified green cleaning products.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BLOOMINGTON

### PARKER'S PICNIC GROUNDS TARGETED

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAR INVASIVE SHRUB IN NEXT BUCKTHORN BUST

**B**UCKTHORN IS A NONNATIVE, extremely invasive shrub that saps light, moisture and nutrients from neighboring plants and trees. Join Parks and Recreation, Park Maintenance and the Pond Dakota Heritage Society for a buckthorn bust, **Saturday, October 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**, at Parker's Picnic Grounds, 10401 Columbus Road.

If you would like to volunteer, come to the picnic grounds on the day of the event to register. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes, jeans, long sleeve shirts and eye protection.

Some cutting and removal tools will be provided; however, bring a bow saw, handsaw, lopping shears or hand shears if you have them. Label tools with your name and phone number.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: "Buckthorn."

#### What's wrong with buckthorn?

The shrub:

- Aggressively competes with native plants for light, moisture and nutrients.

- Forms an impenetrable thicket.
- Detrimental to many wildlife habitats.
- Lacks natural insects and plant disease controls necessary to contain its spread.

- Bears messy fruit that stains cars, decks and concrete – this fruit contains a laxative that causes birds to deposit undigested seeds, thus spreading more buckthorn.



**Common buckthorn**



#### WEED WRENCHES GET THE JOB DONE RIGHT

Bright orange Weed Wrenches, such as the one held in the photo by a member of St. Luke's Church youth group, are often used remove roots from the ground, preventing the invasive plant from returning. The City has Weed Wrenches available for loan at no charge. To reserve one, call Jean Buckley at 952-563-8751.





## VETERANS WALL DEDICATION

PHOTO COLLECTION ON DISPLAY THROUGH NOVEMBER

**T**HE CITY WILL PAY TRIBUTE to local military veterans during a special dedication luncheon and ceremony on **Monday, November 3, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, at Creekside Community Center.

The Veterans Photo Wall honors those who have served our country and their sacrifices. Mayor Gene

Winstead will dedicate the collection of photographs, which will remain on display through the end of November.

To make a reservation for the luncheon, call 952-563-4948. The cost is \$6.25. For those 60 years old and younger who qualify and fill out the NAPIS meal form, the cost is \$3.50.

New photos may be submitted to Creekside. All previously submitted photos will be included in the 2008 display.



## HUMAN SERVICES NEWS

### TRY SOMETHING NEW EXPLORE THE PROGRAMS AT CREEKSIDE

**B**LOOMINGTON HUMAN SERVICES offers more than 60 programs and services, including card clubs, crafts, billiards, a wood shop, computer labs, music and food programs, volunteer opportunities and a boutique. Attend a "Get Acquainted with Creekside" session on the **first Wednesday of each month, 10 - 11 a.m.**, to learn more about the programs and opportunities offered at Creekside.

### GOOD FOR YOUR BRAIN NEW PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR OLDER ADULTS

**E**VERY 70 SECONDS, an older adult is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Take your brain health into your own hands by participating in [m]Power by Dakim, a unique program designed to improve the quality of life for aging adults desiring to maintain their brain health and for those at risk for or living with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or arthritis. [m]Power engages the user with mentally stimulating exercises that transform rigorous cognitive exercise into a fun activity.

For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



Food packages consist of meats, fruits, vegetables, pasta and other staples. New customers may register on **Saturday, October 18, 10 - 11 a.m.**, at Creekside and pick up food **Saturday, November 15**.

This program is cosponsored by the Emergency Foodshelf Network, in partnership with Bloomington Human Services. Participants are encouraged to spend time volunteering in their communities each month.

For more information, contact *Ask the City* at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

### FARE FOR ALL SAVE ON GROCERIES

**F**ARE FOR ALL is a nonprofit food distribution program that offers a way to save money on nutritious food. There are no income guidelines to participate. The prepaid cost for each food package is \$10 - \$20 and two hours of volunteer service that can include babysitting for a neighbor, picking up mail, mowing grass or shoveling snow.



## ON PATROL



### SOLVING CRIMES GETS TECHNICAL CRIME TECHNICIANS: EXPERTS AT COLLECTING EVIDENCE

**I**T'S A POSITION that receives little fanfare, but Bloomington's crime technicians play an invaluable role in solving crimes.

Recently, evidence collected from a cigarette butt left at a crime scene resulted in the identification of the person responsible for a string of ATM robberies in the city. According to Crime Technician Supervisor Sergeant Todd Lewis, without the expertise of the crime technicians who worked on the case, the suspect might still be at large.

The City's 14 Patrol Officers who are certified crime technicians work burglaries, sexual assaults and other crimes where meticulous forensic evidence collection and processing is essential to solving the case.

According to Sergeant Todd Lewis, Bloomington crime technicians take great pride in their work.

"The crime techs we have are really sharp and like to learn," Lewis said.

Crime technicians may take more than two hours to collect, analyze and process evidence from a crime scene, only to wait months to see the fruits of their labor, such as a hit on the state's DNA database or a fingerprint match.

"Anyone can pick up evidence," Officer and Crime Technician Dennis Koosman said. "But if the evidence is not processed correctly, it can't be used in court."

Crime technicians receive training at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, as well as specialized in-house training. They use a Dodge Magnum wagon as their own mini-crime lab, which includes



cameras to take photos and special equipment to dust for fingerprints and gather evidence such as blood and other fluids.

Once the evidence is collected, it is packaged and submitted to either the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in St. Paul or the Hennepin County Crime Lab.

## A HEALTHY BLOOMINGTON

### EARLY DETECTION IS ESSENTIAL

#### SAGE CLINIC OFFERS FREE BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS

**O**CTOBER IS National Breast Cancer Awareness Month – time to remind everyone in your life about the importance of screening for early detection of breast cancer.

"Thank you so much for this service. I feel as if a huge burden has been lifted from my shoulders," was the response from a woman who received mammography results through Bloomington Public Health at the Sage Women's Clinic in Edina. Six out of 1,141

women served by the Sage program in 2007 were diagnosed with breast cancer. Another 222 were referred for further diagnostic testing.

For the six women diagnosed with breast cancer, strong evidence supports a 30 percent reduced risk of the cancer being fatal when regular mammograms are followed by timely treatment.

Bloomington Public Health serves Edina, Richfield and Bloomington. The Sage Women's Clinic offers free breast



and cervical cancer screening to women, age 40 and older, who are uninsured or underinsured and who meet income guidelines.

SagePlus provides cardiovascular screening and the opportunity to select nutrition and exercise goals.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-888-643-2584.



For more information, call Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8990.

### AVOIDING THE FLU

#### GETTING VACCINATED IS YOUR BEST PROTECTION

**I**NFLUENZA, ALSO CALLED THE FLU, is not the common cold. It is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. According to the Center for Disease Control, every year more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications. Flu symptoms include fever (usually high), headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches. Stomach symptoms

such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea also can occur, but are more common in children than adults.

The most effective way to avoid becoming sick with the flu is to get vaccinated in the fall before virus activity peaks. Good health habits, such as frequent hand washing and coughing and sneezing into a tissue, are also an important form of prevention.





TEEN DRIVING STATS  
STARTLING FACTS LEAD  
TO NEW LAWS

**T**HE 2008 STATE LEGISLATURE recently passed several laws in response to a staggering fact: the leading cause of death among 15 - 17-year-olds is traffic crashes. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, drivers ages 15 - 17 with two or more passengers in their vehicles are twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash, and 1.5 times more likely to be involved in an injury crash than adult drivers with the same passenger load.

Nighttime driving limitation

For the first six months of licensure, driving is prohibited for drivers under the age of 18 between midnight and 5 a.m. The exemptions are if the driver is: accompanied by a licensed driver age 25 or older; driving between home and work or a school event; or driving for employment purposes.

Teen passenger limitations

For drivers under the age of 18 during their first six months of licensure, only one passenger under the age of 20 is permitted, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For the second six months of licensure, no more than three passengers under the age of 20 are permitted, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Cell phone/text-messaging restrictions

It is illegal for drivers under the age of 18 to use a cellular or wireless phone, whether hand-held or hands-free, except to call 911 in an emergency. As of August 1, 2008, it is illegal for drivers of any age to compose, read or send text messages or access the Internet on a wireless device while on the road.

For more information, obtain a copy of "Teens behind the Wheel, A Roadmap for Parents," at the front desk of the Bloomington Police Department, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

FREE SEMINAR  
SUSTAINABLE REMODELING

**T**HE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (HRA) is offering a free home improvement seminar. "Green Materials for Remodeling" will be offered on **Thursday, October 23, 7 p.m.** The seminar will focus on earth-friendly and sustainable remodeling products.

For more information, contact Tom Holman at 952-563-8941 or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: HRA.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK  
FIRE STATIONS OPEN HOUSES

**T**HE CITY'S SIX FIRE STATIONS and Public Safety Training Facility celebrate National Fire Prevention Week with an open house on **Saturday, October 11, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Meet Fire, Police and Public Works employees and enjoy a variety of activities, demonstrations and tours. Free t-shirts, temporary tattoos and wrist bands will be available for kids. For more information, call 952-563-4801.



OPEN HOUSE

Visit your local fire station  
Saturday, October 15  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

STATION NO.	ADDRESS
1	10 W. 95th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. S.
3	2050 E. 86th St.
4	4201 W. 84th St.
5	10540 Bush Lake Road
6	8601 Lakeview Road
ALSO STOP BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY OPEN HOUSE! 7525 Braemar Blvd., Edina.	

SESQUICENTENNIAL NEWS

BLOOMINGTON HOSTS PRESTIGIOUS CONTEST  
FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ART COMPETITION

**B**LOOMINGTON HAS A LONG HISTORY of wetlands and wildlife conservation. Early efforts preserved one-third of the community as parks and open space. In doing so, important, often fragile, rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands were protected from development. Bloomington also has a history of fostering arts in the community. The Bloomington Arts Center is committed to stimulating creativity by making high quality arts programs accessible to people of all ages, skills and abilities. Thus, it's no surprise that the City of Bloomington was chosen to host the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest's first visit to Minnesota.

Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the 2008 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest will be held **October 17 - 18** at Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Contest entries will be on display at the Center for the Arts beginning **Friday, October 10**. Judging begins **Friday, October 17, 9:30 a.m.**, with a performance by the Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir and a welcome from Mayor Gene Winstead.

A panel of five judges will announce a winner on **Saturday, October 18, 1 p.m.** The winning design will be made into the 2009 - 2010 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or "Duck Stamp." The contest judging is free and open to the public.

Since the inception of the Federal Duck Stamp program in 1934, sales of Duck Stamps have generated more than \$700 million to acquire and preserve more than 5.2 million acres of migratory waterfowl habitat.

For more information, visit [www.fws.gov/duckstamps](http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps).



A judge takes a closer look at the Duck Stamp Contest entries.

A BIT OF HOMETOWN HISTORY  
BLOOMINGTON RESIDENT WINS CONTEST IN 1972

Bloomington resident Joan Cook remembers when her husband Arthur, an artist and wildlife enthusiast, won the Duck Stamp Contest in 1972.

"My husband was very interested in hunting, fishing and wildlife conservation. He was also a tremendous artist," Cook said. "When he won, he couldn't believe it; he thought they were joking, but then the phone started ringing off the hook with people wanting to buy prints and we knew it was true."

FIXING UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD



LENDING A  
HELPING HAND  
SERVICES FOR SENIOR  
HOMEOWNERS

**H**OME (Household and Outside Maintenance for the Elderly) has been helping Bloomington seniors for more than 25 years. Through the program, Bloomington resident

Evelyn has received help with yard work, snow removal and small repairs for the past 10 years. Although Evelyn turned 91 years old last April and uses a walker to get around, she said she is able to manage living alone in her home with assistance from her family and the HOME program.

The program is provided through Senior Community Services, a nonprofit agency. It is funded by the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, United Way, Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the City of Bloomington and other cities that it serves. HOME offers homemaking and maintenance services to older adults who wish to remain independent in their houses and apartments. Services are based on a sliding fee scale and include housecleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, snow removal, lawn care, interior and exterior painting, and minor home repairs.

For more information, call 952-888-5530 or visit [www.seniorcommunity.org](http://www.seniorcommunity.org).



CAMPUS RENOVATIONS  
NEW ADDITION AND GARDENS

**B**UILDING RENOVATIONS and a major addition were recently completed at the Bloomington campus of Northwestern Health Sciences University.

The 48,000-square-foot addition, the Wolfe-Harris Center for Excellence, was completed in September. In addition, the Standard Process Healing Gardens, located between the new addition and the main campus, are now open.

Northwestern Health Sciences University offers classes in natural health care education, including Oriental medicine, acupuncture, therapeutic massage and human biology. The University has more than 900 full-time students on its 25-acre campus in Bloomington.



## COME — IF YOU DARE!!!

### HAVE A SCARY-GOOD TIME AT THE HALLOWEEN BASH

**B**LOOMINGTON'S ANNUAL Citywide Halloween Party will take place **Friday, October 31, 6 - 8 p.m.**, at Northwestern Health Sciences University, West 84th Street and Penn Avenue South. Preschoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an adult, are invited. Activities include "Trick or Treat Alley," games, prizes and much more. Admission is free. Donations of nonperishable food items to the VEAP Food Shelf are greatly appreciated.



The event is sponsored by the Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club, Northwestern Health Sciences University and the City of Bloomington. For more information, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us) keyword: Halloween.

### ADULT SPORTS

#### SENIOR MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

**T**HE BORN AGAIN JOCKS Volleyball League welcomes men, 55 years and over, with any level of playing ability. Call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

**When:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, October 8 - April 25.

**Time:** Warm-up 8:45 a.m.  
Games 9 a.m.

**Where:** Jefferson H. S. Activity Center, 102nd St. and France Ave. S.

### TUMBLING TIME! L'IL FLIPSTERS GYMNASTICS



#### L'IL FLIPSTERS

**L**GYMNASTICS is back. For children ages 2-1/2 to 4 years old, this mobile gymnastics organization provides quality gymnastics training and motor skill development in a safe and fun environment. **New sessions begin every month, September 2008 - May 2009.** Classes are held at Bloomington Ice Garden, Wednesday morning or Friday morning or afternoon. Classes are \$32 per four-week session.

## CENTER - FOR - THE - ARTS

**L**OCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City's Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Calendar.

### EXHIBITIONS

**Hours:** M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

#### INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

**Bloomington Art Center Annual Members' Juried Exhibition**, featuring works by members, runs **October 30 - November 28**. Artists' reception is Thursday, October 30, 6 - 8 p.m. This year's juror is Douglas Flanders of Flanders Gallery in Minneapolis.

### BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER

952-563-8587

**Holiday Art Sale**, featuring a wide variety of handmade items, runs **November 30 - December 7, 1 - 5 p.m.** Extended holiday hours are: **December 1 - 3, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., December 4 - 6, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.**



*Follow the Leader*, by Richards Poey.



**GREAT  
GIFT IDEAS  
at Holiday  
Art Sale!**

#### ATRIUM GALLERY

**An Artful Partnership – Paintings and Sculpture**, featuring artists Heidi and Richards Poey, runs **October 9 - November 16**.

**Instructor/Student Art Show**, featuring works by instructors and their students, runs **November 20 - December 28**. Artists' reception is Thursday, November 20, 6 - 8 p.m.



### SCULPTURE DONATED NEW ADDITION GRACES CIVIC PLAZA COURTYARD

**I**F YOU'VE BEEN by the east side entrance to Civic Plaza lately, you've probably noticed a new addition to the courtyard. Bloomington artist Dale Peterson recently donated his sculpture, "Growth," an abstract representation of organic plants and treelike forms, to the city.

Peterson taught photography, design and sculpture at Normandale Community College for 25 years. He is glad to be able to support the community through his art.

"I hope that this sculpture will inspire artists and patrons to bring public art to Civic Plaza and Bloomington," Peterson said.

Installed in the courtyard outside the east entrance to Civic Plaza, the welded copper and bronze sculpture is approximately 10 feet high and sits atop a four-foot copper and bronze pedestal.

The City's tree removal contractor, North Star Tree Service, donated the labor to move the sculpture.

### SCHNEIDER THEATER

For all theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.



**Pianist  
Elliot  
Wilcox -  
Thursday  
Musical.**

#### THURSDAY MUSICAL POPULAR SERIES RETURNS

Thursday mornings will once again feature classical music by outstanding local musicians from the Twin Cities. Performances are **Thursdays, October 9 and 23, November 6 and 20, and December 4, 10:30 a.m.** Tickets are \$10 at the door or series subscriptions may be purchased.

For more information, call 612-333-0313 or visit [www.thursdaymusical.com](http://www.thursdaymusical.com).

#### MONROE CROSSING BLUEGRASS AND GOSPEL CONCERT

Monroe Crossing presents an evening of classic and traditional bluegrass, bluegrass gospel and heartfelt originals, **Saturday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$22 adults; \$20 students/seniors.

#### FIGRELLO

Bloomington Civic Theater presents this 1950s-era musical about politics done right. Performances run **October 24 - November 16**. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$19 students/seniors.

#### ANGELICA CANTANTI TO SING IS TO FLY FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs present songs to make your heart soar, **Saturday, November 22, 7 p.m.** Proceeds will directly support the Angelica Cantanti Scholarship Endowment Fund. A dessert reception follows the concert.

#### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

The Medalist Concert Band performs overtures, songs and marches from classic American composers, **Sunday, November 23, 4 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 adults; \$8 students/seniors.

### BLACK BOX THEATER



The Gallery Theater Company presents this hilarious who-done-it that will have you guessing until the curtain falls. Performances are **October 9 - 26**. Tickets are \$17 for adults; \$15 students/seniors.





GENERAL ELECTION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

ON THE BALLOT

- U.S. President and Vice President.
- U.S. Senator.
- U.S. Representative – District 3.
- State Senator – District 63.
- State Representatives – Districts 40B, 41B, 63B.
- Constitutional Amendment question.
- County Commissioner – District 5.
- Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors – Districts 1, 3, 5.
- Judicial offices.

SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOTS will soon be available to view online. Visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Voting.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

ASK THE ELECTION JUDGES if you need assistance at your polling place. All sites are accessible and have AutoMARK voter-assist terminals to help voters who have difficulty in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

VOTER REGISTRATION

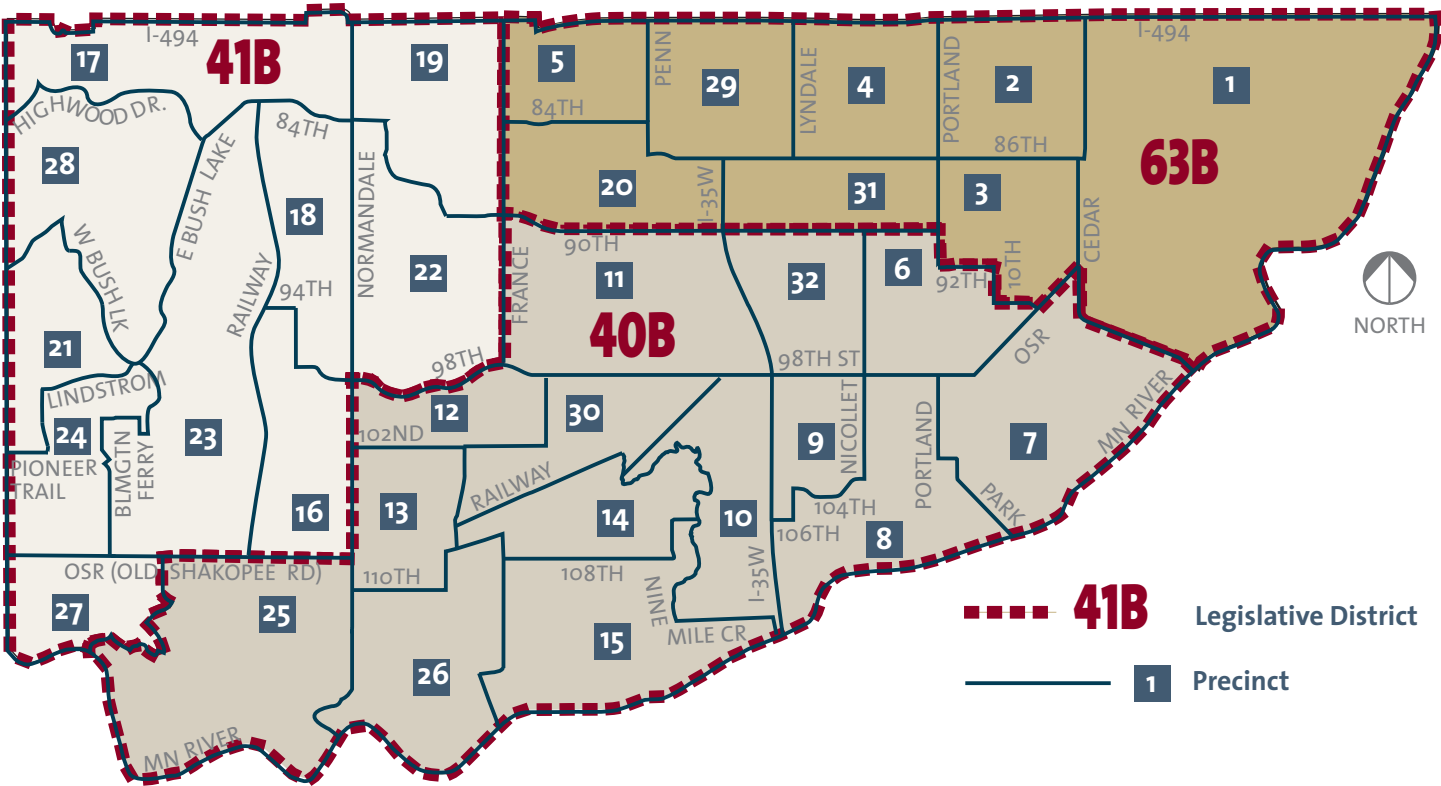
IF YOU ARE VOTING for the first time, have moved, changed your name, or have not voted in the last four years, you will need to complete a voter registration application before voting. Pre-registration for the November 4 Presidential Election closes on **Tuesday, October 14, 5 p.m.** The voting process is quicker on Election Day if you have preregistered. Voter registration applications are available from most government offices and on the City’s Web site.

If you are unable to preregister, citizens can still register at their polling place on Election Day with one of the proofs of residence authorized by Minnesota law. The Minnesota driver’s license and Minnesota I.D. card are two of the most commonly used documents for election day registration. Plan ahead by renewing or updating these documents before Election Day to ensure they are current when you arrive at your polling place.

You can update your driver’s license or Minnesota I.D. card at the Bloomington Motor Vehicle Office at 9930 Logan Ave. S. A complete list of Election Day voter registration proof of residence documents is available on the City’s Web site.

VOTING INFORMATION: 952-563-8729 – [WWW.CI.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US](http://WWW.CI.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US), KEYWORD: VOTING

2008 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge 3815 American Boulevard East	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	South entrance South lot
4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
7 Indian Mounds Elementary School 9801 - 11th Avenue South	Main entrance (N) Northwest lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary School 9901 East Bloomington Freeway	NE school entrance Northeast lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
11 Bloomington Nat’l. Guard Armory 3300 West 98th Street	Main entrance (W) West lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr. (NW) West lot – disabled use front drive
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance (N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (Left doors) North lot
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance Northeast lot

**PRECINCTS 5 AND 11**  
**POLLING LOCATION CHANGE**

VOTERS IN PRECINCTS 5 AND 11 will be voting at different locations in 2008. Precinct 5 voters will vote at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 8400 France Ave. S. Precinct 11 voters will now vote at the Bloomington National Guard Armory, 3300 W. 98th St.

**VERIFY THE LOCATION OF YOUR PRECINCT POLLING PLACE PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY BY USING THE ABOVE MAP OR BY VISITING [WWW.CI.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US](http://WWW.CI.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US), KEYWORDS: POLLING PLACE.**

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
21 Sunrise Park Shelter 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Only entrance (N) North lot
22 Normandale Hills Elem. School 9501 Toledo Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) South lot – disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and North lots
26 Southwood Center 4901 West 112th Street	West entrance West lot
27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance North lot and street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot